

AEC

Approved For Release 2002/11/15 : CIA-RDP84-00313R000100120007-1

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington 25, D. C.

No. B-211  
Tel. HAZELWOOD 7-7831  
Extension 3446

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Friday, November 13, 1959)

DR. GLENN T. SEABORG TO RECEIVE  
FOURTH ENRICO FERMI AWARD

Chairman John A. McCone today announced that Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, eminent nuclear scientist and Chancellor of the University of California, has been named to receive the Atomic Energy Commission's Enrico Fermi Award for 1959.

The award, consisting of a medal, a citation and \$50,000, will be presented to Dr. Seaborg for his outstanding work in the field of nuclear chemistry, including the discovery of plutonium and other transplutonium elements, and for his leadership in scientific and educational affairs. The award was recommended by the General Advisory Committee of the Commission and was approved by President Eisenhower.

The citation of Dr. Seaborg reads as follows:

"For discoveries of plutonium and several additional elements and for leadership in the development of nuclear chemistry and atomic energy."

Dr. Seaborg will be presented with the award at a ceremony in the auditorium at Commission Headquarters in Germantown, Md., at 12:30 p.m., on December 2, 1959, the seventeenth anniversary of the day the late Enrico Fermi and his team of nuclear scientists proved that nuclear fission could be self-sustained and controlled when they operated the world's first reactor in a squash court under the stadium at Stagg Field at the University of Chicago.

(more)

The Advisory Committee's unanimous recommendation of Dr. Seaborg to receive the award was contained in a letter dated September 12 from Warren C. Johnson, Chairman of the Committee, to Mr. McCone. The documentation in support of the Committee's recommendation, reads:

"Dr. Seaborg is a pioneer in the field of nuclear chemistry, and he has attained international renown as a great leader in that field.

"His discovery, with Kennedy and Wahl, of the element plutonium, together with his elucidation of its chemistry by experiments when only the most minute amount of that element was available, constitute a major scientific achievement. This work made possible the plutonium reactor cycle. Dr. Seaborg's latest work in the discovery of the now lengthy series of elements heavier than plutonium and the investigation of their properties has contributed in a major way to our understanding of nuclear structure and the chemistry of the heavy elements.

"Dr. Seaborg is also an outstanding leader in scientific and educational affairs. He has served on several of the most important Government committees and is now Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley. Many students have received their training in nuclear chemistry as well as inspiration and enthusiasm for a scientific career from Dr. Seaborg. He was also one of the first to appreciate the opportunity offered by television to communicate knowledge and understanding of science to a broader audience. American science is stronger in many respects because of the outstanding contributions of Dr. Seaborg."

Dr. Seaborg is the fourth recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award. The first was the late John von Neumann, noted scientist and mathematician and member of the Atomic Energy Commission, who was honored in 1956. The late Dr. E. O. Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron, received the award in 1957, and Dr. Eugene P. Wigner, renowned authority on theoretical physics, in 1958. The first to receive an award conferred under authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 was the late Dr. Fermi, on recommendation of the General Advisory Committee in November, 1954. When Dr. von Neumann was elected to receive the award in 1956, the Commission decided that thereafter it should bear Dr. Fermi's name.

(more)

The Enrico Fermi Award, which is authorized in Section 157 b. (3) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, may not be granted more often than once annually and in an amount not exceeding \$50,000 to any one individual. If the award is made to more than one person, the total amount still is \$50,000. Section 157 b. (3) of the act reads, in part:

"The Commission may also, upon recommendation of the General Advisory Committee and with the approval of the President, grant an award for any especially meritorious contribution to the development, use, or control of atomic energy."

A biographical sketch of Dr. Seaborg is attached.

- 30 -

111359

Attachment

Attachment

GLENN THEODORE SEABORG

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg was born in Ishpeming, Michigan, on April 19, 1912, the son of H. Theodore and Selma Erickson Seaborg. He received his A.B. degree in chemistry at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1934 and his Ph.D. in chemistry at the same university in 1937. He was a research chemist at the University of California at Berkeley from 1937 to 1939, instructor in the Department of Chemistry from 1939 to 1941, and was made an assistant professor in 1941.

In 1942, Dr. Seaborg was appointed section chief in the Manhattan Engineer District's Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago, where he conducted research in nuclear chemistry and physics and was responsible for developing the process that was used for the separation of plutonium from fuel elements irradiated in the production reactors at the Hanford installation at Richland, Washington. In 1946 he returned to the University of California at Berkeley as a professor in the Department of Chemistry. He was appointed Chancellor of the University in 1958.

While serving as instructor at the University of California in 1940, Dr. Seaborg was co-discoverer of element 94 (plutonium), the first of a number of transuranic elements which his research activities revealed over the next 15 years. He was the discoverer in 1941 of the nuclear energy source isotope, plutonium 239; in 1942 of the uranium isotope, uranium 233; in 1944 of elements 95 (americium) and 96 (curium); co-discoverer in 1949 of element 97 (berkelium); co-discoverer in 1950 of element 98 (californium); in 1952 of element 99 (einsteinium); in 1953 of element 100 (fermium); and in 1955 of element 101 (medeleevium).

He was a member of the Atomic Energy Commission's General Advisory Committee from 1946 to 1950; member of the Joint Commission of Radioactivity, International Council of Scientific Unions, since 1946; and of the Committee of Standards and Units of Radioactivity, National Research Council, since 1947.

(more)

- 2 -

Attachment

In 1947, Dr. Seaborg was named one of America's 10 outstanding young men by the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and was recipient of the American Chemical Society's Award in Pure Chemistry; he was awarded the John Ericsson Gold Medal by the American Society of Swedish Engineers in 1948; the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with E. M. McMillan in 1951; the John Scott Award and Medal of the City of Philadelphia in 1953; and the Perkin Medal, American Section, Society of Chemical Industry, in 1957.

Dr. Seaborg is a Fellow in the American Physical Society; member of the American Chemical Society, American Nuclear Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Philosophical Society, Royal Society of Arts (England); American National Academy of Sciences, and American Scandinavian Foundation.

Honorary degrees awarded to Dr. Seaborg include D.Sc. at University of Denver, 1951; Gustavus Adolphus College, 1954; and Northwestern University, 1954. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Pi Mu Epsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma, and Phi Lambda Upsilon fraternities.

Dr. Seaborg married the former Helen Griggs on June 6, 1942. The couple has six children: Peter, Lynne, David, Stephen, John Eric, and Diane Carol. The family resides at 1154 Glen Road, Lafayette, California

- 30 -